



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

IN THIS ISSUE

- News and Events
- Safeguard Against Chemicals in Your School: EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3)
- Checklist: Responsible Chemical Management
- EPA Visits 2009 National Excellence Award Winner and Faculty Program — Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS)
- Have Your Questions Answered!

News and Events

- **Become an *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Award winner!** Start your application today for EPA's competitive National Excellence, National Model of Sustained Excellence and National *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector Awards. [Apply by October 8, 2010](#), to be considered.
- **Encourage your students to participate in the National Radon Poster Contest!** The poster contest is a fun, creative and educational way to raise radon awareness. The top national winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Visit the [Poster Contest](#) website for more information.
- **Interested in keeping your school safe and free from hazardous chemicals?** Participate in the Prevent Air Pollution at the Source: Schools Chemical Cleanout webinar on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Learn effective methods to safely manage chemicals that are used in schools every day. [Register today](#) for this free webinar!

CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:

[Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign \(SC3\)](#)

[SC3 Tool Kit](#)

[Environmentally Preferable Purchasing \(EPP\)](#)

[IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#)

2011 IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The 2011 *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium offers a unique opportunity for participants to attend technical breakout sessions, including a session on developing and sustaining a

Safeguard Against Chemicals in Your School: EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3)

From school maintenance closets to high school chemistry labs to vocational school classrooms, schools house a variety of chemicals. These chemicals can have many useful applications: they help keep school areas clean, demonstrate chemistry lessons and teach students new mechanical skills. But when these chemicals are mismanaged, they can put students and school staff at risk from spills, fires and other accidental exposures — incidents that may result in lost school days and require millions of dollars to mitigate.

The [Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign \(SC3\)](#) gives K-12 schools the guidance and tools they need to responsibly manage chemicals, thus reducing the risks and hazards posed by mismanagement. The goals of SC3 are to bring together administrators, teachers, maintenance staff and others to:

- Remove inappropriate, outdated, unknown and unneeded chemicals.
- Prevent potential chemical incidents in schools by promoting best practices in training, curriculum and policy change.
- Raise awareness of chemical issues and promote sustainable solutions.

successful chemical management plan. [Register for the Symposium today!](#)

ACCESS PAST E-MAIL UPDATES ONLINE

Can't find a past *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update in your e-mail inbox? No problem! Wish you could read past editions? You can! [Visit the Update archive](#) to access printable versions (PDF) of all past editions on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-mail discussion forum makes it easy to connect directly with your peers to share information and communicate online. Join today by sending a blank e-mail message to schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

SC3 promotes the formation of school chemical management teams, but if you have an IAQ management program in place using the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program, you probably already have the institutional buy-in, structure and organization that you need to incorporate this important element into your team's work. The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program offers [technical solutions](#) for systematically and aggressively managing common IAQ issues faced by schools — including information on establishing school chemical management and inventory plans.

Through their existing *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program, Ohio's [Mayfield City School](#) District took the steps to responsibly manage their school chemicals — they conducted a chemical inventory and cleanout to make the school facilities healthier for students, teachers and staff.

Schools have an overwhelming number of responsibilities and often do not have the time, expertise or resources to address all of their issues, including chemical management. EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3) encourages school districts to look to their local community for volunteers (e.g., private industries, colleges and universities, and fire and emergency response personnel) to assist them with their chemical management needs. Community volunteers can provide their services (e.g., inventory assistance, teacher training, chemical removal) to schools and give back to their communities in the process — a win-win for everyone!

To learn more about effective chemical cleanup and get a real-world perspective on responsible chemical management in schools, visit the [SC3 website](#) for tools and resources schools can use to responsibly manage their chemicals. Learn from other schools who have taken steps to keep students and staff safe from chemical risks. And check out these [success stories](#) of successful efforts. Use the checklist below to get ideas for starting or continuing your IAQ program's efforts in responsible chemical management. Bring responsible chemical management to your school.

Checklist: Responsible Chemical Management

Do you want to clean out your school and prevent chemical accidents? Chemical management should be a top priority. Don't wait — make changes in your school today.

This checklist can help you organize your IAQ management team and reduce the quantities and toxicity of the chemicals contained in your school. Knowing how the chemicals are entering your school environment and who is using them — from maintenance staff to science teachers — are great starting points for responsible chemical management. By managing and purchasing chemicals responsibly, you will contribute to the health and safety of your school environment — ultimately affecting student learning and attendance.

- Establish a chemical management plan as one part of your comprehensive IAQ management program.
- Plan and budget for chemical purchases, management and disposal.
- Conduct periodic chemical inventories.
- Establish [environmentally preferable purchasing practices](#).
- Encourage school staff to use the smallest amount of the least hazardous chemicals.

- Utilize the *IAQ Tools for Schools Building and Grounds Maintenance checklist* to ensure safe use of maintenance supplies.
- Ensure your school regularly inspects ventilation and air flow by using the *IAQ Tools for Schools Ventilation checklist*.
- Offer chemical management safety training and review [potential chemical hazards](#) with school staff.

Visit the [Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign \(SC3\)](#) website to gain more information on steps each team member can take (e.g., administrators, teachers, nurses, etc.) to create a unique chemical management program to meet your school's needs.

EPA Visits 2009 National Excellence Award Winner and Faculty Program — Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS)

To witness firsthand how school districts are successfully and proactively protecting student and staff health, EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program visited Baltimore County Public Schools in July. EPA toured two schools and heard from school nurses, custodians, principals, teachers and other staff on the actions they take every day to ensure that their schools are healthy. BCPS is dedicated to sustaining a quality and inclusive IAQ management program that is designed to address the needs of a diverse student population.

The heart of BCPS's IAQ management program is the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Action Kit, which has been tailored to help provide their schools with safe and conducive learning environments. After gaining experience in IAQ management and winning the *IAQ Tools for Schools National Excellence Award*, BCPS is actively mentoring other schools by providing information and resources to assist them in developing proactive IAQ management programs.



EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program met with members of Baltimore County Public Schools to gain a greater perspective on their efforts to manage IAQ and provide healthy learning environments for their students.

Have Your Questions Answered!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a webinar, an Update feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.